



GENERALISED FEEDBACK FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS AFTER STAGE 1

Call for proposals FOR A BETTER INNOVATION SUPPORT TO SMES (H2020 – INNOSUP-01-2019)

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Deadline: 03.04.2019

The stage 1 evaluation is now finished.

Statistics for the call are available via the flash call info update on the H2020 Participant Portal.

In order to ensure equal treatment, successful stage 1 applicants do not receive the evaluation summary reports (ESRs) for their proposals, but could take note of this generalised feedback with information and tips for preparing the full proposal.

Information & tips¹

- Objectives and indicators should be specific and clearly explained. Links between objectives and KPIs should be made clear. Indicators for the short-term impact on SMEs (for example, on job creation and revenue) and the medium-term impact of the project (for example, the role of the platform in the sector) are to be included in all applications. KPIs also need to be realistic, taking into account the timeframes and budgets of the projects.
- Budgets should be carefully designed and comply with the programme rules. Only eligible costs should be included in the minimum 75% of the total proposed budget that shall be allocated to support innovation in SMEs directly. The allocation of costs to specific work programmes and cost areas should be explained.
- Detail should be provided on how new competitive industrial value chains will be built. The establishment and facilitation of value chains should be explained in specific rather than general terms.
- Cross-border activity should be clearly explained in detail. The complementarities of industries across borders should be described. Projects should ensure that they are promoting genuinely cross-border value chains.
- Project plans should include an explanation of how the sustainability of the project will be ensured. Long-term planning beyond the period of EU funding is required to make the project more impactful.

¹ The text summarises some of the main shortcomings and weaknesses found on the occasion of the evaluation of the stage 1 proposals. The list of shortcomings is not exhaustive.


- Projects should be placed in the context of national, regional, and private investments. The benefits of the project should be explained in terms of how it supplements activities funded by national, regional, and private investments. Explanation is needed if your project intends to support SMEs to secure other forms of funding.
- There should be specific rather than general explanations of how the proposed innovations will create new and improved products and processes. The link between research innovations and product innovations should be made clear.
- Applications should address how the project will achieve European economic impact and provide added value.
- Improvements to the business environment for SMEs should be explained in specific rather than general terms.
- All applications must specifically address the gender aspects of the project.
- Applications should explain the intended procedures and criteria for selecting SMEs to receive support. There should be an explanation of the reasoning behind the number of SMEs that are to be supported by the project.
- The steps and methods for managing demonstrators and prototypes should be explained if applicable.
- The aims and functions of open collaboration spaces and platforms should be explained. Also, the sustainability of these platforms after the period of project funding should be addressed.

In your stage 2 proposal, you have the chance to address or clarify these issues.

In addition, you are expressly requested to use the latest versions available in the submission tool of the Part B - Technical Annex 1-3 and Part B - Technical Annex 4-5, as they include sections specific to the H2020-INNOSUP-1 call (not available in the standard versions of the templates).

Annex 1 to this note provides a template that could help calculate what to include in the call topic specific requirement that "at least 75% of the total proposed budget shall be allocated to support innovation in SMEs directly".

Please bear in mind that your full proposal will now be evaluated more in-depth and possibly by a new group of outside experts.

 The full proposal must be consistent with your short outline proposal. It may NOT differ substantially. The project must stay the same.